

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 EUR-10

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 AID-10

OMB-01 IO-03 RSR-01 /073 W
----- 052802

R 111500Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5500

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 8084

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJ: INDO-PAK NEGOTIATIONS

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY JOINT SECRETARY (PAKISTAN), ASHOK CHIB, TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR JULY 11 THAT HE HAD RETURNED FROM THE CONSULTATIONS IN DACCA THIS WEEK CONSIDERABLY MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN WHEN HE HAD LEFT. HE SAID THE GOI HAS NOW SUGGESTED TO PAKISTAN THAT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES TAKE PLACE JULY 24, BUT HAS SAID IT WILL BE PREPARED TO MEET JULY 28 IF THE GOP PREFERENCES. THE JULY 24 DATE IS, OF COURSE, DESIGNED TO ALLOW THE MEETING TO BE HELD BEFORE SHEIKH MUJIB RAHMAN DEPARTS ON JULY 26 FOR YUGOSLAVIA. THE INDIANS HAVE ALSO AGREED TO MEET EITHER IN KARACHI OR ISLAMABAD.

2. CHIB SAID THE INDIANS HAD FOUND BANGLADESH VERY COOPERATIVE DURING THE CONSULTATION DISCUSSIONS AND THAT HE BELIEVES ALL OUTSTANDING HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS CAN BE WORKED OUT IF THERE IS SOME WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE BY PAKISTAN. HE WAS MOST CAUTIOUS ON THE QUESTION OF POW TRIALS BUT

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SAID HE WAS NOW CONVINCED A WAY COULD BE FOUND TO RESOLVE

THIS ISSUE. HE WAS RELUCTANT TO BE SPECIFIC BUT AT ONE POINT SUGGESTED THAT BOTH PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH MIGHT HOLD TRIALS IN A LOW KEY AND THEN WORK OUT A MUTUAL TRANSFER OF THE CONVICTED PRISONERS. WE ARE NOT SURE THIS IS REALLY THE APPROACH THE INDIANS AND BENGALISE DISCUSSED BUT FIND IT ENCOURAGING THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, A GOI OFFICIAL HAS BEEN WILLING TO SAY THAT HE DOES SEE SOME SOLUTION TO THE POW TRIALS DILEMMA.

3. COMMENT: CHIB WAS VERY UNEASY ABOUT WHAT BHUTTO MIGHT SAY OR DO WHILE HE IS IN THE US,, WE DO NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT INDIANS ARE CONVEYING MORE OPTIMISM THAN WARRANTED AS TACTICAL BALANCE TO POSTURE OF ACCOMMODATION THAT THEY ANTICIPATE BHUTTO WILL PROJECT WHILE HE IS IN US. NEVERTHELESS CHIB AND HIS COLLEAGUES MAY ACTUALLY HAVE SOME NEW ASSURANCE OF BANGALEE FLEXIBILITY. WE URGE ADDRESSEES HOLD CONTENT PARA 2 ABOVE CLOSELY.
MOYNIHAN

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